

SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A COASTAL ZONE ACT PERMIT APPLICATION

Re: TA Instruments – Waters, LLC

October 2008

Introduction

As required by the "Regulations Governing Delaware's Coastal Zone" (Section H.3 [d]) dated May 11, 1999 and amended October 1, 2001, the Secretary is required to make an environmental assessment of the impact(s) of the project on the Coastal Zone of Delaware. This is done by evaluating the project's likely impact on the statutory criteria and making a preliminary determination of the sufficiency of the Offset Proposal. The following is such an environmental assessment of the proposed project described in an application for a Coastal Zone Act (CZA) Permit, received from TA Instruments – Waters, LLC.

The fact that DNREC considers an application to be preliminarily, administratively complete does not constitute the Department's position as to whether the application should be approved or denied. That decision will not be made until after the public hearing. The purpose of the Secretary's written assessment is to assist the applicant and the public to focus on issues presented in the application. It constitutes an administrative determination that the application is sufficient to proceed to a public hearing. In addition, should the Department eventually issue the CZA Permit, it does not automatically guarantee the applicant will receive other required permits.

The Proposed Project

TA Instruments was divested from the DuPont Company in 1990. In 1996, TA Instruments was acquired by the Waters Corporation to become known as TA Instruments – Waters, LLC. The New Castle branch of TA Instruments includes manufacturing, research and development, sales, marketing, service and other administrative support functions.

The company currently operates at 109 Lukens Drive in the Riveredge Business Park in New Castle under CZA Permits 251 and 407. CZA Permit 251 is for the manufacturing of thermal instruments and CZA Permit 407 includes the manufacturing of rheological and vapor compression refrigeration cycle coolers. In this CZA Permit application, they propose to build a new building next to the existing building in the same industrial park, in order to better accommodate their existing operations.

In the new building, TA Instruments proposes to continue the manufacturing of 125 rheological and 600 thermal instruments per year. Rheology is a technique that determines how materials deform or flow under force. The thermal analysis instruments are used to understand how materials such as plastics, composites and food change when heated or cooled.

TA Instruments is not proposing to expand their existing operation; they will just be moving their existing operation onto an adjacent parcel of land within the industrial park. Since the manufacturing operation is technically moving to a new location in the Coastal Zone; however, a new CZA Permit is required as per the CZA and the *Regulations Governing Delaware's Coastal Zone*.

Sufficiency Statement

This application for a CZA Permit, including supplemental information, has been reviewed by the Department to determine its completeness. After a thorough review of the company's application and file, the Department considers this application to be administratively complete and sufficient for proceeding to public hearing.

Environmental Assessment

The environmental impacts of this project are very minor. The application states there will be thirty gallons of spent isopropyl alcohol generated each year as well as regular office trash and cardboard. There will be a slight increase in stormwater resulting from the additional impervious surfaces. There will be no air emissions or surface water discharge. No natural habitat will be lost because the new building will be located within an existing industrial park. There also will be no odors, noise or other nuisance conditions resulting from this operation.

Offset Proposal

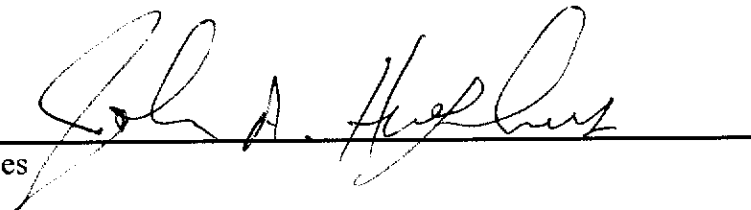
The company's offset proposal is to recycle the isopropyl alcohol using a licensed and reputable recycler of hazardous waste and also to recycle the waste cardboard and spent light bulbs off site. They will also be handling the additional stormwater as per their stormwater run-off proposal approved by the New Castle Conservation District on September 12, 2008.

Conclusion

The company's application is preliminarily administratively complete. The application reflects the minor environmental impacts that the company addressed in their Offset Proposals in their original CZA Permits, 251 and 407, and will not have any increased capacity or environmental impacts from moving to their new building. All questions in the application have been addressed and the Offset Proposal has been reviewed and provisionally accepted by the DNREC.

Approved:

John A. Hughes
Secretary



Date:

10/20/08